

supplies millions of brakes per year to the European car industry where competitive pricing is paramount.

2. It makes the construction easier to carry out by an auto assembly method which again is important in reducing costs. In particular it eliminates the previous mechanical operations necessary to lock the guide spring and bias spring to the handbrake lever since the hook 25c serves not only to act as the flap bias but also locates the spring on the lever.

In the present invention the portion 25c of the spring which engages the pivoting flap fits into a groove 30 cut into the rear of the flap 22. This is an important feature as it prevents disengagement of the spring from which would lead to failure of installation.

Also, the bottom of the U-shaped handbrake lever is provided with a projection 18a which enters a cut-out 31 formed in the lower edge of the flap. Thus when the nipple is correctly engaged the nipple shoulder is supported both on the projection 18a and the lower portions of the flap surrounding the cut-out 31.

For the reasons given above, it is believed that the claims as presently amended should now be allowable and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that there are still a few minor matters to be resolved before issuing a notice of allowance, Applicant's attorney would welcome a phone call from the Examiner at the below listed phone number.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**Certificate of Transmittal**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. 571-273-8300) on June 20, 2006.

Paul E. Milliken

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